|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  Health & Safety  fire extinguisher Types and their uses |  |

| **image** | **band colour** | **characteristics** | **Type of FIRE suitable for** | **type of fire not suitable for** | **other notes** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Water** |
| Fire extinguisher - Water  | Red(no band) | * Contains nine litres of water under pressure
* Discharge period of 60 - 100 seconds
 | * Combustible solids such as wood, paper, rubbish or textiles
 | * Flammable liquid fires
* Flammable gas fires
* Fires involving live electrical equipment
* Fires involving cooking oils or fats
 | * Use in an upright position
 |
| **Foam** |
| Fire Extinguisher - Foam | Blue | * Contains nine litres of an aqueous film-forming foam additive
* Discharge period of 40 – 90 seconds
 | * Flammable liquid fires such as petrol, oils and paint
 | * Flammable gas fires
* Fires involving live electrical equipment
 | * Use in an upright position
 |
| **Carbon Dioxide** |
| Fire Extinguisher - Carbon Dioxide | Black | * Contains carbon dioxide
* Discharge period depends on the size of the extinguisher
 | * Fires involving live electrical equipment
 | * Flammable gas fires
* Fires involving cooking oils or fats
 | * Limited usefulness outdoors
* Best for small fires – distance up to two metres
 |
| **Dry Chemical – type AB(E) or B(E)** |
| Fire Extinguisher - Powder | White | * Contains bicarbonate-based powder
* Discharge period depends on the size of the extinguisher
 | * Flammable liquid fires
* Flammable gas fires
* Fires involving live electrical equipment
* Type AB(E) only: combustible solids
* Type B(E) only: cooking oils and fats
 | * Type AB(E) only: do not use on cooking oils and fats
* Type B(E) only: do not use on combustible solids
 | * Can be used for powered electrical equipment fire
 |
| **Wet Chemical** |
|  | Oatmeal | * Contains ingredients that create soapy solutions
* Discharge period depends on the size of the extinguisher
 | * Fires involving cooking oils or fats
 | * Flammable liquid fires
* Flammable gas fires
* Fires involving live electrical equipment
 | * Dangerous if used on powered electrical equipment
* Can produce toxic fumes, ventilation needed
 |
| **Fire Blanket** |
|  | NA | * Consists of a piece of fire-resistant fabric (usually woven glass fibre).
* Must measure no less than one metre x one metre
 | * Fires involving cooking oils or fats
* Fires on clothes
 | * Flammable liquid fires
* Flammable gas fires
* Fires involving live electrical equipment
 | * Only use a fire blanket if you feel physically and mentally able to use this equipment safely
* Ensure to replace after every use
* Do not lift or remove the fire blanket to see if the flames are out
* Do not attempt to move or touch the blanket until it is cool
 |

**Maintenance and Servicing**

Fire extinguishers are serviced/inspected twice per year as per AS 1851.

Most fire extinguishers are serviced by a central contractor arranged through Facilities, Campus Services. Service requests should be logged directly with Facilities. Some campuses or locations other than Parkville may have a locally managed contractor. Under these arrangements the local contractor should be contacted with regards to service requests.

Fire blankets must carry the Australia Mark AS/NZS3504:2006.

|  |
| --- |
| For further information, contact Manager Emergency & Business Resilience (e-br@unimelb.edu.au). |